**NY-603 Governance Board Meeting Agenda**

**February 17, 2023**

**Zoom**

**Recording:** [**https://youtu.be/Okr8PlQ8ORw**](https://youtu.be/Okr8PlQ8ORw)

**Attendees listed at bottom of document**

* **Shelter Inventory**
  + Trends across LI indicate increasing street homelessness while shelters have been closed with limited success opening new ones. Both counties do not have the bed capacity in the way they need to appropriately triage and shelter all people based on their need. People on the street are stating that the traditional structure (as comes from state level regulations) is working less and less for people.
  + OTDA requirements to certify through SMS have made it more challenging to open shelters. Projects are required to identify the site and train staff first, have that inspected, and then wait for the program to be certified. This process can take 6-8 months in which the program is spending money on rent and staff salaries without bringing in revenue from clients. This is only really feasible for larger non-profits that have other programs that can offset the costs and financial risk of having an uncertain date when revenue will come in.
    - Partnering with motels might alleviate this issue, as they can continue bringing in money from other sources and can negotiate a flexible lease.
    - The final deadline to certify existing shelters was 12/2023, was pushed back several times.
    - OTDA is very open to feedback. When it comes to advocate for situations that are LI specific, going the route of communicating with other CoCs has not been effective.
  + Nassau County DSS is struggling with beds and capacity. Some shelters have been closed because they could not get certified, other have been closed for poor operations. There is interest among providers in opening shelters, but roadblocks from the administration and the community. The Deputy County Executive indicates there is more leeway in developing new shelters. There is a consistent challenge of where to place shelters. Majority minority communities are complaining that they are already doing more than their share of sheltering, while any attempts to open shelters in other communities is met with resistance to even speaking about the homeless.
    - A lot of thought is going to figure out how to get money for case managers in hotels. Going to put RFQ out. District is not unwilling.
* Moving forward low barrier shelter
  + Lots of organizations are faith based and would be doing things on their own property. Local tribes have much more discretion on their land. Siting a location might be more viable. FBO do not have stigma of non-profits. This would be a different political battle. These organizations have large networks of locally based people who are passionate and show up. Would need to find funding and way to support them. Challenge would be following administrative demands of funding source.
* Action items to move forward
  + Suggestions for OTDA:
    - Approve the program first, and then let program identify the site and train staff.
    - Seed/pre-development funds for the duration of the certification process.
    - Have provisionary approval by local authorities to open shelter, then allow shelter to go through certification process.
  + Ask Suffolk DSS (Francis Pierre, Anne Marie Sexton) how Suffolk has been able to move forward shelter opening and certification.
  + Bring up concerns in next state-wide CoC meeting on 3/10
  + Legislative committee can advocate in community for opening more shelters and doing more for the homeless at large. Try to sway public opinion against NIMBYism, have a marketing strategy.
    - There is a window of opportunity with governors budget proposal. Editorial in Newsday talking about fostering more engagement of state with localities to come up with solutions.

**Attendees**

Greta Guarton, LICH

Nancy Nunziata, Nassau DSS

Elizabeth Lunde, Concern

Jamie Haruthunian, Nassau DSS

Deirdre Trumpy, MOMMAS House

Allison Covino

Robert ODonnell, EOC of Suffolk

Terray Gregorretti, TSCLI

Valerie Chamberlain, FSL

Stephen Brazeau, HHM

Vicki McGuin, Suburban Housing